

Message Text

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INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

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COMMERCE:WCAVITT (SUBS)

TREAS:MFELDMAN (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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EC BRUSSELS PASS TO LANDE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS 2/12/76

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: US/EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATIONS

REFTEL: MTN GENEVA 956

1. WE SHARE MTN DEL'S CONCERN RE GSP CONCESSIONS IN EC
OFFER WHERE U.S. IS IMPORTANT NONPREFERENTIAL SUPPLIER. AN
INTENSIVE INTERAGENCY REVIEW IS NOW UNDER WAY ON THESE COM-
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MODITIES INCLUDING THOSE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PARA 1 OF

REFTEL TO DETERMINE THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF A GSP OFFER ON U.S. TRADE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THIS REVIEW WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS REVIEW WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER BILATERAL WITH THE EC ON THIS QUESTION. IN VIEW OF THIS, U.S. POSITION FOR FEBRUARY 12 BILATERAL HAS TO REMAIN ONE OF OPPOSITION TO THE EC'S GSP APPROACH IN THE MTN POINTING OUT THAT AS PER TOKYO DECLARATION, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MTN AND THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT ON A MFN BASIS.

2. U.S. BELIEVES THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC WE SHOULD URGE THEM TO MAKE THEIR OFFERS IN THE TPG ON A MFN BASIS RATHER THAN THROUGH INCREASING GSP BENEFITS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S. WOULD

STAND TO BENEFIT FROM SOME OF THE MFN REDUCTIONS WHICH THE EC MIGHT OFFER IN THE TPG. IN DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION WITH COMMUNITY YOU CAN POINT OUT THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE EC WOULD RECEIVE NEGOTIATING CREDIT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FINAL BALANCING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR CONCESSIONS GIVEN ON AN MFN BASIS IN THE TPG. WE WILL BE TAKING A SIMILAR APPROACH REGARDING RECIPROCITY FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH MAY BENEFIT FROM CONCESSIONS THE U.S. WOULD MAKE IN THE T.P. NEGOTIATION.

3. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS OUR CASE VERY STRONGLY ON TOBACCO PER ESTABLISHED POSITION. IN ADDITION, U.S. DEL SHOULD EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE FISH ITEMS CITED REFTEL PARTICULARLY 16.05B, PREPARED AND PRESERVED SHRIMPS, IN LIGHT OF STRONG INDUSTRY PROTESTS AT RISE IN EC MFN TARIFFS DUE TO EC ENLARGEMENTS. ADDITION OF PREFERENCE THIS ITEM WOULD CAUSE LARGE PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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